

October 8, 2023

Vol. XXV No. 41

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

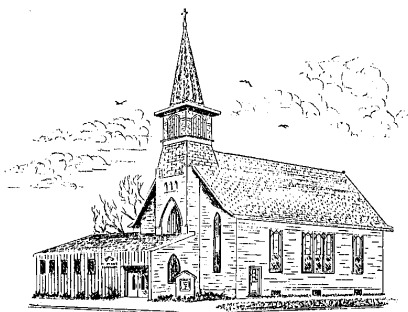
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www.okabenalutheran.org



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Mrs. Lana Strike

Hymn 17:1-5 *Oh, Worship the King*

Liturgy Page 5ff. in The Lutheran Hymnal

Epistle Lesson Philippians 3:4-14 If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:33-46 “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*. “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? “Therefore I say to

you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

CDS Students 428:1-2, 4, 6 *I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

Hymn 473 *The Church's One Foundation*

Sermon Revelation 12:7-12 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

The War Behind All Wars...

The Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn 760 *Oh, Love, How Deep*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Quartet *Beautiful Savior*

VOTERS Our 3rd Quarterly Meeting will be held next Sunday, after the noon potluck. Besides regular Board reports, the agenda will include: Membership: The release of Kraig Boernsen at his request. Cemetery Board update on what has been done to line up grave markers; Trustees / Cemetery Board update on church mower; Principal pay; possibility of renting the teacherage; Fall Worship Schedule; Nominating Committee and Election Meeting Date; Annual Meeting Date. Any additional Agenda items should be given to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

LADIES AID The 6:30 meeting on Tuesday evening will incorporate the first chapter of the new book study.

MN PASTORAL CONFERENCE Lord willing, the pastor will be leaving this afternoon and should return on Tuesday night. The conference will be held at a site in Henning, MN.

COLLEGE VISITORS DAY The annual event will be held on Friday, November 10, on the ILC campus in Eau Claire. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. The day will wrap up with ILC's fall theatrical production, *Beauty and the Beast*. Speak with the pastor if you're interested in attending.

CLC NEWS Pastor Neal Radichel, Mankato, has the call to Eau Claire. Pastor Terrel Kesterson, Batavia, IL, has the call to the joint-parish of Iron River and Marquette, MI. Mrs. Kate Sauers, the wife of Pastor Rob Sauers, (Winter Haven, Florida) was recently diagnosed with cancer. They have several young children. Please remember them in your prayers.

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USHERS 10/08 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
10/15 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
10/22 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 3) J. Kazemba, J. Thaemlitz
S. Aden, L. Baumann, B. Dronen, L. Ferguson